

## October Kicks Off Respect Life Year's Activities

### What's All the Fuss? Why Defend Life?

Why does our Catholic faith respect and promote life from conception to natural death? Why does it oppose abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment? Why does the Church promote family life and strong marriages?

The answers are all grounded in a **fundamental belief**, namely, that we humans are all created in the image of God, that we have a special place in God's creation. That is why we must respect and love every human being. Even those who don't believe in God possess an innate sense of the value of human life.

Therefore, to take a life, a life created by God, is a direct offense to God. As Catholics, we hold that abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment are all serious sins against God since they are intended to destroy precious human life.

When the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference (USCCB) issued its election-year guidelines, it placed the **dignity of the human person** at the forefront of its concerns. Other important concerns were poverty reduction and stopping war, violence and other social ills. But none of these has any meaning without the protection of human life.

But some defend abortion with "my body, my choice." That goes against basic science since a pregnant woman has two bodies to care for, not just her own.

In its message for this year's Respect Life Sunday, the USCCB's approved theme was **Be Not Afraid. Our God has won the battle over death**. We can act and speak in truth, urging everyone to respect and preserve life from conception to natural death.

If you are a Catholic who believes abortion or euthanasia may be acceptable sometimes, please devote some prayer time to ask for an understanding heart, and some reading time devoted to human life issues.

### 40 Days for Life: 89 Abortion Centers Closed, 154 Abortion Workers Quit

Through November 5<sup>th</sup>, the largest ever **40 DAYS FOR LIFE** will continue in over 370 cities. The campaign consists of daily prayer vigils outside of Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, head of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life, visited the U.S. campaign headquarters earlier this year. He complemented the campaign with "working with all Christians to share the love of Jesus Christ to **change hearts and minds**. Changing laws is not enough, we must change hearts and minds." He

challenged 40 Days for Life to continue to grow, like the early church. "They had no strategy, only sandals and faith in Christ. It was simple and it changed the world – and this is what you are doing for the Gospel of Life." [Sources: [www.40DaysforLife.com](http://www.40DaysforLife.com); [defundplannedparenthood.com](http://defundplannedparenthood.com)]

Please join your area group to pray the rosary or hold signs for all to see. Your gift of just **an hour or more of peaceful witness** and prayer any day between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. will help to save God's children in danger of abortion. Do something beautiful for Him, and sign up for any hour(s) you can give. Just imagine how wonderful you will feel to find out that you may have helped to save a child's life!

### Rapidly Growing Order Led by Former Psychologist Serves the Cause of Life

Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV was an academic and practicing psychologist specializing in child development and family issues before entering the Sisters of Life as a founding member. She is presently the first Superior General of the Sisters of Life, founded by John Cardinal O'Connor in 1991. This growing community has the unique charism of protecting and enhancing the **sacredness of human life**. In little more than 25 years, the Sisters of Life, in their blue and white habits, have expanded to eleven locations in New York, Pennsylvania, Denver, Connecticut, & Washington, DC, and have over 100 sisters with more in postulant stage. In a recent interview, Mother Agnes said: "Our Sisters are devoted to the dignity of the human person at all stages of life. Today, those most vulnerable are the unborn who can, literally, do nothing to defend themselves. [The culture of death] has opened the door to euthanasia which will be the next battlefield for life."



"We spend four to five hours a day in common prayer. It is our prayer life that sustains us in our daily, 6-hour commitment to the apostolate at the service of life in the community." [Thomas Aquinas College Newsletter, 7/17]

"We must reject decisively, through word and example, the deceptive propaganda in favor of abortion; reject the criminal annihilation of innocent, defenseless persons. Education in defense of life and the nuclear family must serve as a faithful transmitter of human values and Christian faith. Christian parents, take seriously this obligation!" St. John Paul II

## Medical Doctor Admits “Feeling of Disgust”, Ends His Abortion Practice

“I used to tell myself a million excuses to justify aborting babies. I’m not pro-abortion, I’m pro-woman. Anyway, abortion is only a tiny part of what I do as a doctor.”

When Dr. Anthony Levatino and his wife realized she couldn’t conceive, they adopted Heather. A few years later, she was killed tragically by a vehicle on the street while playing after dinner.

“When I returned to the office after Heather’s death, I tried to go about business as usual. Then it was my turn to perform an abortion. I went into the procedure room as I had a thousand times before. As I began, I inserted what’s called a sopher clamp and ripped out the baby’s arm. I just stared at it ... and then I literally got sick. All I could see was that this was someone’s son or daughter.”

“That’s what led me on the path to be a **voice for preborn babies** and the women who face risks to their health and safety because of abortion. I will continue to speak out about the evils of abortion until every human life is respected and cherished.” [letter sent on behalf of Live Action, a group shining a spotlight on Planned Parenthood]

## An Argument: “For Those in Poverty, Abortion is Humane” Or is it?

Pro-Lifer: “You’re right, some women are in terrible poverty and we need to help them as well as we can.”

“Can I ask you kind of a weird question? Imagine a woman has a toddler and she is really poor. She just lost her job and she can barely feed herself, much less a child. Should she legally have the right to kill her toddler because she is so poor? Of course not.”

“Let me explain why I ask that weird question. I have really good scientific evidence that an **embryo from fertilization is just as valuable a human person as you or I**. It will continue to develop just as a toddler will. Because I am so convinced of that, whenever someone argues for abortion, I have to ask myself, ‘Would this be a good argument for killing a toddler?’ And there just aren’t any good reasons to kill toddlers. So if I’m right about the embryo being a human person, then we can’t kill it because of poverty any more than we’d kill a toddler because of poverty. What do you think?”

[Timothy Brahm, LifeNews.com, 8/18/17]

## HOW CAN I GET A BIT MORE INVOLVED?

Pick a group to join or organization to support. Visit some websites and find out more: [cbrinfo.org](http://cbrinfo.org), [LifeRunners.org](http://LifeRunners.org), [pop.org](http://pop.org), [liveaction.org](http://liveaction.org), [njrtl.org](http://njrtl.org), [prolifeacrossamerica.org](http://prolifeacrossamerica.org), [studentsforlife.org](http://studentsforlife.org).

## Roofing Contractor Leaves Job Half Done When He Learns the Building is an Abortion Clinic

A contractor walked off a roofing job at South Wind Women’s Center, an abortion facility in Wichita, Kansas, leaving the installation of a new roof only half completed after learning they had been deceived into thinking they were working on a real estate business.

South Wind’s owner and administrator, Julie Burkhart, sought the services of Farha Roofing under the guise of Kellogg, LLC, while concealing the fact the building was actually an abortion facility. It was only after Farha Roofing began the job on the leaky, flat-roofed building that they found out the true nature of Burkhart’s business, thanks to Mark Gietzen and the Kansas Coalition for Life (KCFL).

[Cheryl Sullenger, LifeNews.com, 8/30/17]

*Humanae Vitae*, the encyclical of Blessed Paul VI promulgated 49 years ago, is eloquent about the teaching of the Church and the fundamentals of the Natural Law. The gentle, clear, but firm unfolding of the mystery of **sacramental marriage** and its role in God’s plan for the family, the world, and salvation is central to the most beautiful story ever told. [Dr. Christopher Manion, Director, *Humanae Vitae* Project, Weekly Briefing, Popul.Research Inst.]

## ♪ “Love and Marriage Go Together Like a Horse and Carriage” ♪

Like the song lyrics of old, current research appears to support strong, loving marriages. Sue Johnson, a clinical psychologist and human relationship expert, and author of *Love Sense* (Little, Brown, 2016), said recent developments in what she calls “the science of love” can teach people how to have long-lasting, fulfilling relationships with their spouse. From her research, she’s convinced that men and women are “hardwired” to want to feel **special and unique to someone**: “According to all of our research ... we’re bonding, attachment animals,” said Johnson.

Research affirms the Church’s teaching on marriage as a monogamous institution. John Grabowski, associate prof. of moral theology & ethics at Catholic University (Washington, DC), says that, based on our biology, sex releases a flood of oxytocin, a bonding hormone. As society tries to train us to disassociate sexual union with the emotional and physical bond that it creates, we wreak havoc in our own selves and our relationships. “We can’t block our hearts; **we can’t block the way we’re designed**. We’re creating wounds in ourselves when we operate this way.” [Maria Wiering, Polyamory and the American mainstream, *Our Sunday Visitor*, 9/3/17]

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